RAJYA SABHA

Thursday the 30th March, 1989/9th Chaitra, 1911 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*401. [*For answer vide col. 31 infra*].

Extension of multi-purpose identity cards scheme

*402. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:†

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 21 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd November, 1988 and state:

(a) whether the Central Government have given their approval to the suggestions made by the Gujarat and Rajasthan Governments for extension of the multi-purpose Identity Cards Scheme so as to include more areas contiguous to the border; if so, what are the names of the Tehsils and Talukas in the two States where the above Scheme is to be extended;

(b) whether person of lower age groups will also be issued such Identity Cards; if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether similar suggestions were also received from some other State Governments; if so, what are the details and outcome thereof; and

(d) what decision has been taken on Assam Government's proposal for extending the Scheme to that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Under the extended Scheme, Identity Cards are to be issued to the eligible persons in the following additional areas along the border in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat:—

State	District	Tehsils
Rajasthan	Ganga Nagar	Ganganagar Padampur Anupgarh Raisingh Nagar Gharsana
	Jaisalmer	Jaisalmer Fokaran
	Barmer	Barmer Shiv
	Bikaner	Bikaner Kolayat

State	District	Taluk
Gujarat	Kutch	Nakhatrana Bachau Lakhpat Rapar
	Banaskanta	Vav Santhalpur

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ashwani Kumar.

At present it has been decided to issue identity cards to persons of and above the age of 16 years only in these two States.

Requests have been received from some other State Governments including Assam for introduction of similar scheme in their States also. It has been explained to these State Governments that extension of the scheme to other areas will be considered only after the pilot scheme has been fully implemented and evaluation made.

श्री अश्विनी कुमार : माननीय सभापति जी, इसी प्रकार का प्रश्न 3 नवम्बर, को भी इस सदन में उठा था और उस समय भी मंत्री महोदय ने कुछ जानकारी देने का प्रयास किया था । मैंने अपने प्रश्न के (क) भाग में पूछा है कि मल्टी-परपज आइडेंटिटी-कार्ड स्कीम यह मल्टी-परपज है या केवल वहां के लिए है ? इसके बारे में कोई स्पष्टीकरण उस समय भी नहीं दिया गया और आज भी नहीं दिया जा रहा है । इसका क्या क्या परपज है, इसका स्पष्टीकरण नहीं किया गया है ।

दूसरा मैंने प्रश्न के (ख) भाग में यह पूछा है कि लोअर एज के ग्रुप्स को देने के बारे में आपने क्या किया है ? पिछली बार सदन में तय हुआ था कि सोलह वर्ष तक दिया जा रहा है और उस समय यह निवेदन किया गया था कि सोलह से कम उम्रवालों को भी दिया जाए क्योंकि कम उम्र के बच्चों से भी स्मगलिंग करवाया जाता है।

मेरा तीसरा प्रश्न, इसी के साथ एक-एक भाग है, (ए) (बी), (सी) और (डी), उसी में से पूछा रहा हूं, पर किसी का भी उत्तर इसमें नहीं है । मैं आप से प्रश्न पूछ रहा हूं–इसमें केवल गिना दिया गया है कि कहां-कहां किया जा रहा है और इसमें ए, बी, सी, डी, चार भागों में पूछा गया है । इसमें असम के बारे में पूछा गया है कि असम में इस स्कीम को मल्टी-परपज आइडेंटिटी कार्ड को लागू करने की कोई योजना है कि नहीं ? इसका भी उत्तर नहीं दिया गया है ।

सभापति महोदय, मेरा निवेदन है कि जो प्रश्न है और जो उत्तर है, दोनों में बहुत विसंगति है और अगर जब तक उत्तर पूरा नहीं आएगा स्टेटमेंट के अंदर, फिर हम सप्लीमेंट्री क्या पूछेंगे ? अगर प्रश्न ही पूछेंगे, तो फिर उत्तर कहां से पूछेंगे ?

मेरा आप से निवेदन होगा कि मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करें कि ए, बी सी, डी जो चार भाग इसमें दिए हुए हैं, वह चारों का उत्तर दें । तब हम लोग सप्लीमेंट्री पूछ सकते हैं और अगर आप अनुपूरक में ही हमको छोड़ देंगे, तो जरा अन्याय होगा । मैं आप से चाहूंगा कि वह सब प्रश्नों का उत्तर दें ।

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, we have given detailed answers as per the questions. These cards are not those cards for which we are thinking of multi-purpose and which has been announced in the Parliament. The basic purpose of this card is to register bona fide residents to collect reliable information regarding the status of the registrants, and to check the movement of the visitors who stay for more than 30 days in the area. As regards the age limit, true, last time, suggestions were there why we don't issue cards to persons below 16 years of age. Now our experience in Gujarat and other areas is that boy below 16 years of age are not involved in activities of smuggling and other things. True, in certain parts of Punjab lower age boys are being used and this is why we have given the age in Punjab as 13 years. As regards the question as to why we are not implementing it in Assam, we had got the proposals from Assam and we told them to go and see the pilot project which is in Rajasthan and Gujarat, and if they are willing to implement it on the same pattern, we are not objecting to that. But their idea is to link up with the citizenship and also the people who are identified by the tribunals and others. So, for that purpose, it is not possible under the same system. It has to be done by a legislation. That

cannot be done at the moment because infiltration is still there and identification is continuing. Once it is completed, then only we will think of it; otherwise, if the Assam Government wants it on the pattern of Rajasthan and Gujarat, we have no objection.

श्री अश्विनी कुमार : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मेरा विनम्र निवेदन है कि आज भी मंत्री महोदय ने मार्च की अंतिम तारीख को भी वही उत्तर दिया है जो कि 3 नवम्बर को दिया था, इस बीच में असम सरकार से इनकी कोई प्रगति हुई या नहीं हुई, यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे ? दूसरा मेरा प्रश्न है कि इसको आपने केवल स्मगलिंग तक सीमित रखा है या इनफिल्ट्रेशन को भी चेक करना चाहते हैं और यदि इनफिल्ट्रेशन को चेक करना चाहते हैं तो वह पश्चिम की सीमा पर ही नहीं पूर्व की सीमा के अंदर केवल आसाम नहीं, बंगाल और बिहार में भी बड़ी मात्रा में बंगला देश से इनफिल्ट्रेशन हो रही है, मनीपुर और त्रिपुरा में हो रही है और स्मगलिंग का जहां तक प्रश्न है, पूर्वी सीमा के ऊपर भी काफी बड़ी मात्रा में स्मगलिंग हो रही है और केवल यही नहीं स्मगलिंग की दृष्टि से तो नेपाल बार्डर पर भी काफी स्मगलिंग हो रही है और अगर यह उपयुक्त है और आपका अनुभव अगर उपयुक्त आ रहा है तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि यह स्कीम सारे देश के बार्डर पर लागू करने की क्या सरकार की इच्छा है ? अगर है, तो कब तक इसे लागू करने की इच्छा है ?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: It is too early to say whether it will be implemented in all the border areas of the country. As I said, this is a pilot project and once we get the experience out of it, we can proceed. As a matter of fact, 63 persons in Barmer district and 14 in Bikaner district have been arrested by the State Govenment after introduction of this scheme and it is actually successful in certain areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat. But, basically, infiltration is not that much as you have very rightly said in West Bengal or in Assam; in certain areas, smuggling and other terrorist activities are there in Punjab. So, introduction of these cards is still not decided and we are examining the Assam proposal. Recently Assam Chief Minister has written to the Prime Minister. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is what they want to know; they want to know about the progress.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Progress in these areas is quite good.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In Assam, you had negotiations with the Assam Government.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Assam Government by themselves are saying that progress in identifying foreigners is not very good and not to their satisfaction. Unless we can find out these foreigners, how can we introduce cards. You may wrongly issue cards to foreigners also. they have been given certain Acts like the Foreigners Act. Let them identify foreigners and then only we shall start it.

श्री अश्विनी कुमार : सभापति महोदय, बिहार के बारे में जब प्रश्न पूछा गया और नेपाल बार्डर की स्मगलिंग के बारे में जो प्रश्न पूछा गया उसका मंत्री महोदय ने उत्तर नहीं दिया, कृपया देने का कष्ट करें ।

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: In Bihar and other areas we have not started nor are we thinking of it right now. Once we get a feedback of the existing schemes which are there, we shall decide.

श्री अश्विनी कुमार : पायलट प्रोजेक्ट की रिपोर्ट आप के पास कब तक आने की संभावना है ?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: I do not know how many supplementaries I have to answer. . .

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: This is for the Chairman to decide. If you give incomplete answers, I have to go on asking. I want complete answer.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: This is an issue which needs to be examined very carefully because in Punjab we could not implement it though we had decided, because the Punjab Government said that it will not be possible to implement it within five kilometers. They want to reduce the area. And again, in Punjab, they want the age to be reduced to 13 years. So there are different perspectives for different States. Let us see the final analysis. It will take some time more. I cannot give a time-bound programme right now. But we are interested to see that in other parts also it is implemented.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, I have seen a news-item from Amritsar in 'The Tribune' which says that the Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar announced on September, 13 that all formalities in this regard for introducing laminated identity cards to residents of villages on the Indo-Pak border, have been completed by the Home Ministry and that, in the first phase, sixty villages in the District of Amritsar would be covered and fourteen District officials would complete the task within three weeks. In view of this categorical announcement, what is the Government's decision in respect of Punjab? What progress has been made in this regard?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, as has been very rightly said by the hon. Member, in the case of Punjab, recently, it has been decided and the process has started. Relevant notification has been issued by the respective Deputy Commissioners. We have entrusted the task to the BARC to make the phonetic code of villages caste etc. It is being made. Once it is made and we know the total number of persons, the cards will be printed in the Nasik Press. This will take four to six months. As the hon. Member very rightly said, certain areas of Punjab have been identified. The Punjab Government have agreed and the process has started.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government are satisfied with the operation of the present system of identity cards in some parts of the country like Sikkim. How many undesirable or alien persons have been identified so far under this system?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: In Sikkim and in Nagaland, it was started by the Election Commission. They are not very happy about it. They have stopped it since. But I will not be able to say as to what is the final decision of the Election Commission and what will be the position in future. As far as my information goes, they are not very happy about it.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Recently, the Law Minister stated that they are happy.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: As I said, I will not be able to say. It is other Ministry which deals with this. It is for the Election Commission.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: How can they be both happy and unhappy?

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Several things are happening like that.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: The Minister has not answered my other question. How many undesirable or alien persons have been identified so far?

MR. CHAIRMAN: On the Rajasthan border?

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: On the Sikkim border.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: How many supplementaries he will ask?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: I do not have the information with me. I can send it to the hon. Member.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा: सभापति महोदय, क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पंजाब और पाकिस्तान के बोर्डर के सभी डिस्ट्रिक्टस में यह स्कीम

लागू कर दी गई है ? यदि हां, तो कब से ? और कश्मीर का जो फ्रन्ट है पाकिस्तान की ओक्योपाईड टेरीटोरी में उसमें कितने गाव में या कितने एरिया में यह स्कीम लागू की गई है और कब लागू की गई है ? यदि नही, तो उसका कारण क्या है ?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: In Punjab, the process has started. As has been rightly said by hon. Member, Shri Advani, in sixty villages the process has started but only in March, 1989. Decision has been taken and the process has started. In Jammu and Kashmir, it has not been introduced as yet. It is not possible for me to say right now as to when it will be introduced. As I said, the process has started and the feedback we have got shows that it is quite successful. It becomes easier for the para-military forces and the local police to work if people in the areas have identity cards. Then, you can easily identify the outsiders who come there. There are also migratory labourers. We must give them temporary cards. We have such labour in Punjab. They are also being given identity cards for one year. Let us see how it works and then we will decide.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: The hon. Minister has said that this identity card scheme is being implemented in the border District of Kutch in Gujarat. The Jamait-e-ulema-e-Hind, a nationalist organisation, particularly, its President, Maulana Asad Madni, who is a Member of this House, has complained to the Prime Minister in regard to the discriminatory attitude of the District officials implementing the scheme. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have received such a memorandum and what action is being contemplated.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: From time to time we have received memoranda from various organisations and we have apprised the State Governments. In this particular case also, we have advised the State Government to see that, if there are genuine grievances, these should be redressed. I can assure the hon. Members that no community or class of people will be harassed. The purpose is to help them, not to harass them.

Inquiry commissions

*403. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of inquiry commissions set up by the Central Government since 1967;

(b) what was the number of reports pertaining to inquiry commissions that were not published; and

(c) what were the reasons for not making the reports public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The requisite information in respect of Commissions set up under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 by the Ministeries$ Departments of the Government of India is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Sir, I am very disappointed with the answer given by the hon. Minister. My questions were simple and specific. There were: What was the number of inquiry commissions set up by the Central Government since 1967? What was the number of reports pertaining to inquiry commissions that were not published? What were the reasons for not making the reports public? I have not asked about any inquiry commission reports of any State Government nor about any departmental enquiries, nor even about the Thakkar Commission. I know if I had asked that question, I would have received...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't bring in Thakkar Commission here.